

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 25, 2005

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005—06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1254

Introduced by Assembly Member Coto
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan, Dymally, and Jones)

February 22, 2005

An act to add Article 6.5 (commencing with Section 8234) to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Code, relating to preschool.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1254, as amended, Coto. Preschool teachers: limited English proficiency.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to administer state preschool programs including, but not be limited to, part-day and preschool appropriate programs for prekindergarten children 3 to 5 years of age, in educational development, health services, social services, nutritional services, parent education and parent participation, evaluation, and staff development.

This bill would provide grants to specified entities for the development and maintenance of training programs and career ladder opportunities for teachers who provide instruction to preschool children who are limited-English proficient, with certain requirements. The bill would make certain findings and declarations, and would provide the intent of the Legislature with regard to the professional development of preschool teachers to provide instruction to limited-English-proficient children.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that quality instruction begins with well prepared teachers, including teachers who possess the necessary linguistic skills demanded by an increasingly diverse pupil population.

SEC. 2. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to accomplish all of the following:

(a) Establish a mechanism for enhancing the training and qualifications of preschool teachers to provide instruction to limited-English-proficient children.

(b) Increase the number of highly qualified preschool teachers and other personnel with expertise in working with limited-English-proficient children and their families *by assisting noncertified educational personnel in meeting professional standards including certification and licensure.*

(c) Improve the early education of limited-English-proficient children.

(d) Improve the qualifications and skills of noncertified educational personnel to meet the professional standards of certified personnel who serve limited-English-proficient pupils through collaborative training programs operated by institutions of higher education and local educational agencies.

SEC. 3. Article 6.5 (commencing with Section 8234) is added to Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Education Code, to read:

Article 6.5. Training for Teachers of
Limited-English-Proficient Children

8234. (a) The department may award grants pursuant to this section to establish and maintain training and career ladder opportunities for teachers who provide preschool instruction to limited-English-proficient children.

(b) Grants may be awarded to institutions of higher education, early childhood educational agencies, local educational agencies, nonprofit organizations, or consortia of these entities.

(c) An entity may apply for a grant by submitting an application developed by the department that shall include, but not be limited to, all of the following information:

1 (1) A description of how the applicant has assessed the needs
2 of preschool programs serving limited-English-proficient
3 children.

4 (2) A description of the training and career ladder
5 opportunities to be developed and maintained using funds from
6 the grant.

7 (d) A grant awarded pursuant to this section may be used for
8 all of the following purposes:

9 (1) The development of curricula for training and career ladder
10 opportunities.

11 (2) Costs of teachers who provide preschool instruction to
12 limited-English-proficient children relating to the attendance of
13 training and career ladder opportunities.

14 (e) The department shall give special consideration to
15 applications that provide for any of the following in its
16 determination as to whether to grant an application received
17 pursuant to this section:

18 (1) The participation of institutions of higher learning that
19 include placement and retention activities.

20 (2) The development of teacher proficiency in English as a
21 second language, including proficiency in the instructional use of
22 English in a classroom context.

23 ~~(3) Whether the applicant will contribute additional financial~~
24 ~~aid to program participants.~~

25 (f) The department shall conduct outreach to institutions of
26 higher education, *including, but not limited to, colleges and*
27 *universities severing traditionally underrepresented students*, to
28 facilitate the participation of those institutions in training and
29 career ladder opportunities in accordance with this section.